

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 SSO-00

AID-20 /160 W

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P R 011025Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3225

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DAN NANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4169

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS MOPS, MARR, VN, VS

SUBJECT: ICCS INVESTIGATION OF CAI LAY SCHOOL MASSACRE

REF: SAIGON 3401

1. FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF ICCS INVESTIGATION OF CAI LAY SCHOOL MASSACRE OF MARCH 9 WAS ASSEMBLED FROM REPORTS RECEIVED FROM CONSUL GENERAL IN CAN THO AND FROM SAIGON SOURCES.

2. THE ICCS TEAM ARRIVED IN CAI LAY BY HELICOPTER ABOUT 9:30 A.M. MARCH 30 AFTER HAVING SPENT ABOUT 30 MINUTES AT THE ICCS REGION 6 COMPOUND IN MY THO. THEY DROVE FROM THE HELIPAD DIRECTLY TO THE CAI LAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. AFTER OBSERVING THE SITE OF THE MORTAR EXPLOSION, THEY BEGAN TO INTERVIEW WITNESSES. QUESTIONING WAS DISORGANIZED AT FIRST, THEN LIMITED TO TWO

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QUESTIONS EACH PER WITNESS PER TEAM. ONLY FOUR PERSONS -

THE CAI LAY DISTRICT CHIEF, THE CAI LAY POLICE CHIEF, THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL AND ONE TEACHER WERE ACTUALLY INTERVIEWED. THE OTHER WITNESSES REMAINED OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL. AT ABOUT 3:00 P.M. THE TEAM DECIDED TO STOP TAKING TESTIMONY BUT TO RETURN ON MONDAY TO SEE THE REMAINING WITNESSES.

3. THE WITNESSES INCLUDING SOME WITH A PETITION OR PROTEST LETTERS WAITED IN A SMALL ROOM IN THE SCHOOL DURING THE ICCS SESSION. A PETITION PRESENTATION BY PARENTS OF DEAD SCHOOL CHILDREN HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE SESSION BY THE JMC. WHEN THE ICCS LEFT WITHOUT RECEIVING THE PETITION THESE PARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES OF THE DEAD SCHOOL CHILDREN, ALSO INCLUDING OTHER CHILDREN, FOLLOWED THE ICCS OUT OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING TO THE ROAD. TWO MOTHERS ATTEMPTED TO GIVE THE PETITION TO THE HUNGARIAN REPRESENTATIVE. THE HUNGARIANS SEEMED DISDAINFUL AND A LITTLE AFRAID AND TRIED TO RUSH OFF. ONE WOMAN TOOK A HUNGARIAN BY THE ARM AND IN THE ENSUING ENCOUNTER HIS INSIGNIA FELL OFF. COLONEL ISNULJANO, HEAD OF THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION REGION VI ICCS STAYED BEHIND AFTER THE OTHERS LEFT TO CALM THE PEOPLE AND ACCEPT THE PETITION.

4. AS THEY SAW THE TEAM BEGINING TO LEAVE, FOUR OR FIVE OF THIS GROUP LAY DOWN IN FRONT OF THE CARS. POLICE WERE ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR A PATH WHEN AN OBJECT WAS THROWN AT THE RIGHT REAR WINDOW OF THE SCOUT CARRYING THE PRG. THE WINDOW SHATTERED, THROWING GLASS OVER THE CAR'S OCCUPANTS. OTHER OBJECTS, INCLUDING ROCKS, ALSO STRUCK THE CAR. NONE OF THE OCCUPANTS WAS REPORTED INJURED ALTHOUGH REGION VII IRANIAN DELEGATION HEAD COL. BEGDELI SAID HE HAD BEEN HIT IN THE LEG BY A ROCK. IN THE CAR WITH BEGDELI WERE PRG MAJ. HA CAN, PRG INTERPRETER VU DUNG, AND TWO HUNGARIANS.

5. GVN REGION 6 JMC REPRESENTATIVE MAJ. QUANG STATED THAT, WHEN THE PRG MAJOR ARRIVED IN CAI LAY, "HE WAS RECOGNIZED IMMEDIATELY BY PARENTS OF THE SCHOOL CHILDREN, HE WAS WELL KNOWN (AS BAY ME) IN CAI LAY MANY YEARS AGO, AND IS KNOWN TO HAVE KILLED MANY PEOPLE."

6. SOME PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE INCIDENT MADE AVAILABLE BY THE JMC IN MY THO, SHOW VERY FEW PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED -- MORE POLICE BEING VISIBLE IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS THAN CIVILIANS. NO VIOLENCE OF ANY
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SORT WAS VISIBLE IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS.

7. AFTER INCIDENT ICCS TEAM RETURNED TO MY THO BUT DID NOT FOLLOW PLAN TO VISIT MY THO HOSPITAL TO OBSERVE SURGICAL REMOVAL OF SHELL FRAGMENTS FROM WOUNDED CHILDREN, AFTER CONFERENCE TEAM DECIDED TO HOLD MEETING IN SAIGON ON MONDAY TO DECIDE ON NEXT STEP.

8. IRANDEL TOLD EMBASSY THAT AT APRIL 1 MEETING OF ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE IT WAS DECIDED TO SUBMIT THE QUESTION OF SUSPENSION OR CONTINUATION OF THE INVESTIGATION TO THE ICCS PLENARY FOR RESOLUTION. NEXT PLENARY IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 5.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TREATY VIOLATION, COMMUNISTS, GROUND COMBAT OPERATIONS, ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, STUDENTS, MASSACRES, TRUCE OBSERVERS
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Draft Date: 01 APR 1974
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